Chill with a cool shave

Granita shaved ice makes great base for flavourful coolers PAGE 11

COLORADO MEDICAL BILLS NO JOKE

SOME THEATRE SHOOTING VICTIMS MAY FACE ENORMOUS TREATMENT COSTS PAGE 3

SASKATOON metro®

WEEKEND, July 27-29, 2012

News worth sharing.

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GAMES ON!

Clockwise, from left: Canadian cyclist Ryder Hesjedal, hurdler Phylicia George, diver Alexandre Despatie, diver Emilie Heymans, shot putter Dylan Armstrong, soccer player Christine Sinclair, heptathlete Jessica Zelinka and swimmer Brent Hayden. For Olympic Games coverage, see pages 13 and 14. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAVID VAN DYKE; EMILIE HEYMANS PHOTO: THE CANADIAN PRESS; ALL OTHER PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Olympics as they happen

Visit metronews.ca/olympics for our unique perspective on the London 2012 Games, including galleries, the latest videos and results as they happen

Comedy invasion

Even three of Hollywood's funniest guys can't save The Watch from its clunker of a script PAGE 7

Satellite snaps Earth as art

Sea swirling around island looks like van Gogh's Starry Night from outer space PAGE 6

Riders prep for Ticats

Saturday's game against Hamilton Tiger-Cats will be test of team's depth PAGE2

Romance fades in Twilight zone

Robert Pattinson moves out after Kristen Stewart's weepy apology PAGE 10

NEWS 1

Riders digging deep for rematch with Tiger-Cats

Riders quarterback Darian Durant practises on Thursday. JEFF MACKEY/METRO

Game on Saturday. Ex-Riders Fantuz and Burris can expect some jeers, but mostly cheers, as they return to Taylor Field

JEFF MACKEY
jeff.mackey@metronews.ca

Andy Fantuz will be back in Mosaic on Saturday for the first time since parting ways with the Roughriders in February.

Fantuz played for six seasons with the Riders and was a fast fan favourite.

So far, with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, the Chatham, Ont., native has gained 298 yards and two touchdowns. When the Riders beat the Ticats 43-16 on June 29, Fantuz was held to 49 yards.

While some expect Fantuz to be heckled on Saturday, others believe he'll get a warm reception.

Saturday's game against the Tiger-Cats will be a test of depth for the Riders.

With third receiver Rob Bagg out with a ligament injury, there will be some changes to the receiving core.

Receivers such as Jordan Sisco, Taj Smith and Terrance Jeffers-Harris are auditioning Saturday to see if they can fill the void.

But they are not alone. Patrick Neufeld, Terrell Maze and Macho Harris could also be earning some important game experience in other positions.

These players will be going up against a hot Tiger-Cats team with former Riders Fantuz and Henry Burris back on Taylor Field.

Even though the last time they met the Riders stomped the Cats, the coach is not taking them lightly.

"They have grown, but we have grown also," Riders head coach Corey Chamblin said. "It doesn't matter who is in there — we have to be able to play them."

Follow Jeff Mackey on Twitter @MetroJeffMackey

Saskatchewan still a good place to be, Irish immigrants say

Despite the unforeseen project delays that led to the layoffs of more than 20 Irish immigrants at PCL Construction, many Irish expats in Saskatchewan are still happy they made the trek.

Immigrant Ciara Watchorn, who helped the government plan its recruitment campaign, says people in Ireland are "queuing up to get in here. People don't see a future there for their families."

Cathy Murphy, executive director of the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre in Toronto, says immigrants are still excited about opportunities here. "I get a lot of calls from people about Saskatchewan," she said. "Word is finally getting out in Ireland about the West."

Murphy says the biggest fear of those who were laid off is that they are part of the federal Labour Market Opinion (LMO) program, which means they are here temporarily and cannot work for another company.

"There's no doubt that someone on an LMO is vulnerable," she said.

The province has been working with the immigrants since July 12, helping them navigate the system so they can find other employment and gain quicker entry into the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program.

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO IN SASKATOON

Helping hand

- The Irish Canadian Immigration Centre opened in Toronto in January, and offers support to Irish immigrants in Canada. It provides social resources and help in looking for work and filling out all the paperwork required, which executive director Cathy Murphy says is one of the greater challenges immigrants face.

The province is working with Irish immigrants who were laid off recently. FLICKR/RALPE

38% drop

Offshore sales buoy Potash's quarterly report

Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan Inc. reported a 38 per cent drop in earnings in the second quarter.

They reported earnings of $522 million or 60 cents per share, down from $840 million or 96 cents a share during the same period in 2011. However, massive offshore sales resulted in a $1.2-billion gross margin for the quarter, allowing for the third-best quarterly gross margin in the company's history. METRO

New free app

Blades decide to 'hop on board' tech wave

The Saskatoon Blades launched their free mobile app, allowing fans to purchase tickets and access news stories, scores, standings, team schedule.

"With the way technology is going we decided to hop on board," said Blades' manager of communications and community relations Cody Nickolet.

By Buzzer Apps Mobile Solutions, the app is on iTunes, BlackBerry and Google Play websites. METRO

Employees threatened

Police looking for suspect in grocery store robbery

Saskatoon Police Service are seeking a man who committed armed robbery at a grocery store on the 1600 block of 33rd Street West at 6:30 p.m. on July 25.

The suspect, described as Aboriginal, about 40, heavy, short with black hair, escaped on a bicycle with an undisclosed quantity of goods. While exiting, he threatened the store's loss prevention officers with what police termed a knife or box cutter. METRO

Free fun

Paddlers coming to town for Dragon boat fest

South Saskatchewan will be filled with roughly 1,100 paddlers as the Dragon Boat Festival sails into the city on July 27 and 28.

Thirty-five teams, four boats and teams of 22 will face off in timed races. The Heart and Stroke Foundation organizes this free event. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. on July 27 with a "Walking the Dragon" performance accompanied by Japanese drumming. METRO

Dragon boaters battle the South Saskatchewan River at a previous festival in Saskatoon. METRO/SUPPLIED

Mobile news

Three mischievous bear cubs found themselves in trouble last week after getting stuck in a dumpster. Scan the code to watch their daring escape.

Medical bills likely to soar for some theatre shooting victims

Colorado. An unknown number of the injured still face a long recovery and the associated costs

Bonnie Kate Pourciau, 18, a victim of the Aurora theatre shooting, speaks from her hospital bed Wednesday, alongside her mother, Kathleen, and father, Trace. ANDY CROSS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some of the victims fighting for their lives after being wounded in last week's Colorado theatre rampage may face enormous medical bills without the benefit of health insurance.

The U.S. doesn't have universal health coverage, though hospitals are required by federal law to stabilize patients during emergencies without regard to their ability to pay.

The Obama administration's health care overhaul would cover millions more uninsured, but Republicans strongly object to its cost.

Members of the public have contributed nearly $2 million to help victims, including the Warner Bros. studio that released the Batman movie that was showing when the gunman opened fire. But it's not clear how much of that money will cover medical expenses.

One victim's family is already raising money online. And three of the five hospitals treating victims said Wednesday they will limit or completely wipe out medical bills.

An unknown number of the victims, however, still face a long recovery and the associated medical costs without health insurance.

Nearly one in three Coloradans, or about 1.5 million, either have no health insurance or have coverage that is inadequate, according to a 2011 report by The Colorado Trust, a health care advocacy group.

The highest uninsured rate is among adults between 18 and 34. Many victims are in that age group.

Among the uninsured victims is a 23-year-old aspiring comic, Caleb Medley, who is in critical condition with a head wound. His wife, Katie, gave birth to their first child on Tuesday.

His family and friends said they have set a goal of raising $500,000 to cover his hospital bills and other expenses and were more than halfway there Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Many of these people, I assume, will need prolonged and expensive rehabilitation after their immediate injuries are dealt with, and that seems precisely what hospitals today are less and less willing to cover out of their own funds."

Dr. Howard Brody, director of the Institute for Medical Humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, and a frequent critic of excessive medical costs.

Unsettling connection

Warner Bros. has moved the release of Gangster Squad to January after the film's climactic cinema shoot-out scene drew comparisons to the Aurora, Colo., shooting. Gangster Squad chronicles a bloody 1940s battle between Los Angeles police and mobsters. It culminates in a scene where gangsters shoot automatic weapons into a crowded movie theatre from behind the screen.

Jun Lin's mother feels sympathy for son's murderer

Daran Lin breaks down on the urn bearing the remains of his son during funeral services in Montreal, Thursday. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's a word the mother of dismembered Chinese student Jun Lin never thought she'd associate with the man charged with murdering her son in brutal fashion.

Sympathy.

Originally, sorrow and anger dominated Zhigui Du's thoughts as she asked herself how such an appalling thing could happen to her son in a kind and peaceful country like Canada.

But as she laid her 33-year-old son to rest Thursday, Du said she has begun to feel sympathy on some level toward a man she calls the "devil."

"Back then, I could only use 'devil' to describe the alleged murderer," said Du, whose son's gruesome murder captured worldwide attention.

"But later on, when I learned more about this suspect through different news sources, especially about his upbringing, I shockingly discovered my other self who has started to develop sympathy for this person described as 'devil'."

Du, who was too distraught to attend the funeral itself, made the remarks through an interpreter during an eulogy she gave at a later news conference.

Lin's dismembered torso was found May 29 stuffed in a suitcase dumped outside a Montreal apartment building. Various body parts were found mailed to different parts of the country and in a Montreal park.

Luka Rocco Magnotta has pleaded not guilty to several charges in connection with Lin's death, including a count of first-degree murder.

Any sympathy on Thursday was mixed with a healthy dose of grief and sadness as Lin's family said their final farewells.

They decided to bury their son's remains in the land he loved and in the city he loved most.

In an emotional 30-minute ceremony, Lin's father sobbed openly as he sat in the front row. Before the ceremony began, he entered the chamber and clutched his son's urn, crying uncontrollably.

Father Henry Rodriguez, who presided over the funeral, called Lin a loving and considerate son who loved life. His life was ended by an "evil act."

"We need to take this opportunity to turn this horrible situation into something positive that brings justice and peace back to this family and to society," Rodriguez said.

"We cannot lose our faith and trust in human beings."

Du looked back fondly on the day her son left China.

"When he left China and came to Canada to study, he wanted us to say goodbye with our smiles," she said.

"And today, I think it's time to wipe our tears and see our son go with smiles on our face."

She said it was "very difficult" to say goodbye to him.

"But I have been waiting for this day to come, because my son can finally rest in peace in the land that he loves."

The family says they hope to establish a charity foundation in Lin's honour that will help young people in distress. Du said it's a way for the family to give back.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Washington

Gun debate shot

The White House made clear Thursday that new legislation on gun control will not be on the political agenda this election year, as President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney engaged in their most extensive discussions on the issue since last week's Colorado theatre shootings. Their comments revived a sensitive debate that has faded to the background in national politics and been virtually nonexistent in this year's close presidential race. While Obama called for tougher background checks on Americans trying to buy a gun, he is not pushing for new gun-control legislation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Omar Khadr

Hopes of avoiding a trial were denied

Two years before the plea deal that was supposed to mean his quick exit from Guantanamo Bay, Omar Khadr offered to plead guilty to terrorism charges in Canada in exchange for a relatively lenient sentence and speedy transfer to Canada, documents show. The offer was one of two proposals Khadr's lawyers put to military commission authorities in 2008 in hopes of avoiding a trial. The convening authority rejected both out of hand. Ottawa's subsequent delay in allowing his transfer to a Canadian prison to serve out his sentence has drawn fierce criticism from Khadr's supporters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tattoo trouble

Woman loses strip-search fight

A Montreal woman who was strip-searched by border agents looking for a pink tattoo has lost her legal bid for compensation — and hope for changes to vetting procedures. It's the latest twist in Sylvie Menard's three-year fight. In a recent judgment, the Quebec Superior Court dismissed her challenge, saying authorities had reasonable justification to act as they did. The saga began in April 2009 when Menard, who had never run afoul of the law, flew home from a Mexico vacation to an unsettling encounter with airport authorities. A computer said her name matched that of a suspected criminal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shower abuse victim goes after Penn State

Left: Former Penn State University assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky. Right: Former Penn State assistant football coach Mike McQueary.

GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Football scandal. Mystery man says he was the one seen being sexually abused by Sandusky in locker room as a boy

For months, the identity of the boy who was sexually assaulted in the locker-room showers by Jerry Sandusky was one of the biggest mysteries of the Penn State abuse scandal. Now a man has come forward to claim he was that boy and is threatening to sue the university.

The man's lawyers said Thursday they have gathered "overwhelming evidence" on details of the abuse by Sandusky, the former assistant football coach convicted of using his positions at Penn State and as head of a youth charity to molest boys over a period of 15 years.

Jurors convicted Sandusky last month on 45 sex-abuse counts. Those included offences related to so-called Victim 2 largely on the testimony of Mike McQueary, who was a team graduate assistant at the time and described seeing the shower attack.

"Our client has to live the rest of his life not only dealing with the effects of Sandusky's childhood sexual abuse, but also with the knowledge that many powerful adults, including those at the highest levels of Penn State, put their own interests and the interests of a child predator above their legal obligations to protect him," the lawyers said in a news release.

Report blasts officials

A recent report conducted by former FBI director Louis Freeh and commissioned by Penn State criticized top school officials for not attempting to identify Victim 2, saying it showed "a striking lack of empathy."

- It said officials looked the other way because they were afraid of bad publicity.

They did not name their client, and The Associated Press generally does not identify victims of sex crimes without their consent.

The university said it was taking the case seriously but would not comment on the pending litigation.

Penn State now faces an unprecedented $60-million US fine from the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the prospect of multiple lawsuits by the victims.

The statement from the man's attorneys said Victim 2 suffered "extensive sexual abuse over many years both before and after the 2001 incident Michael McQueary witnessed."

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MILLERGENUINEDRAFT.CA

Most remaining Zellers stores to close their doors

Hudson's Bay Co.
Parent company says running the last 64 locations is no longer viable

Zellers stores may soon join now-defunct Canadian chains as a relic of the retail past after its parent company said Thursday it will close most of the 64 remaining locations, affecting up to 6,400 jobs.

Hudson's Bay Co. — Zellers Inc.'s parent company — has been contemplating what to do with the brand since last year when it sold the majority of the leases for its 279 discount stores to Target Corp. for $1.83 billion.

Spokeswoman Tiffany Bourré said Zellers is "considering options" for certain locations, including "rebranding some stores" — a determination that has yet to be made.

Zellers, which offers everything from housewares to hosiery, has faced an onslaught of competition from large U.S. retailers in recent years, most notably from Walmart, which has been expanding into a one-stop destination with dry-cleaning services and a full suite of groceries.

Zellers was one of the last remaining large Canadian discount retailers after the Woolco, BiWay and Bargain Harold's brands became extinct years ago. The company said it operates 64 stores that were not acquired by Target, or were already slated for closure.

Zellers has been a key part of the Hudson Bay portfolio since 1978, emerging as the company's discount retail subsidiary by offering clothing and household items at lower price points. It remained in the HBC fold as the company refocused its efforts on its core retail business in the 1980s and 1990s.

In recent years the company has made efforts to revitalize its Bay stores, hiring former Holt Renfrew executive Bonnie Brooks as chief executive officer, introducing high-end boutique spaces in its Toronto flagship store, and securing the rights to produce uniforms and merchandise for Canada's Olympic athletes.

The sale of Zellers stores to Target has been discussed since at least 2004, when Target was rumoured to be in talks with Hudson's Bay Co. to buy its Zellers stores. HBC has said it plans to use the proceeds from the sale to pay down debt and "spend aggressively" on its other brands, including The Bay and Home Outfitters, as well as Lord & Taylor's in the U.S., adding that an initial public offering of the revamped company is "a very possible scenario."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leasehold interests

Target plans to open 125 to 135 stores in Canada. It has purchased the leasehold interests of 189 sites currently operated by Zellers Inc. and it says about $10 million to $11 million will be invested to remodel each facility.

- The U.S. retailer is poised to begin opening the first of the stores acquired from Hudson's Bay Co. next year.

Consumer training camp?

Apple worker Tiffany White leads Camp Apple at an Apple store in Palo Alto, Calif., Wednesday. At the three-day camp, students ages eight to 12 learn how to shoot their own footage, create an original song in GarageBand on an iPad, and put it all together in iMovie on a Mac. PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google

Kansas City Internet going warp speed

Google Inc. revealed Thursday what it will charge for its long-awaited, ultra-fast "gigabit" Internet service in Kansas City, about 100 times faster than a basic cable modem: $70 US per month. The service is intended as a showcase for what's technically possible. Bypassing the local cable and phone companies, Google has spent months and an unknown amount of money pulling its own optical fibre through the Kansas City region.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
99.05¢ US (+0.55¢)

TSX
11,639.75 (+147.24)

OIL
$89.39 US (+42¢)

GOLD
$1,615.10 US (+$7)

Natural gas: $3.1050 US (+3.5¢)
Dow Jones: 12,887.93 (+211.88)

REALITY BITES FOR SULLIED SNOW WHITE

THE LIST
Paul Sullivan
Metro

1 **Olympic insecurity.** There's about one soldier for every athlete ready to take part in the 2012 London Games. At least I think they're ready. On a visit to London, U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who organized the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, said the last-minute security issues in London were "disturbing." That prompted U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron to retort that anybody can organize the Olympic Games "in the middle of nowhere." England 1, Tea Party 0.

2 **Love bites.** Robert Pattinson is "heartbroken and angry" (says a source) and has moved out of the Beverly Hills home he shared with Kristen Stewart, his Twilight co-star, after she was caught biting someone else's neck. The other party was not a werewolf, but the director of Stewart's latest movie Snow White and the Huntsman — an entirely different kind of predator.

3 **Speaking of bats.** Christian Bale, whose Batman series may have inspired James Holmes to allegedly murder a dozen innocent moviegoers, shows he, at least, understands the difference between reality and illusion by turning up at the bedsides of the survivors and attending memorial services for the dead. Holmes, meanwhile, ain't even close: He reportedly keeps asking his jailer how the movie ends. With any luck, he'll spend eternity in hell still wondering.

4 **The war between Alberta and B.C.** The nation is mesmerized as the two western-most premiers duke it out over royalties and risk regarding the yet-to-be-approved Enbridge pipeline carrying Alberta oilsands oil across B.C. to port for Asian customers. B.C.'s Christy Clark wants less risk and more royalties; Alberta's Alison Redford says: Bite me! Are we beginning to sense a theme here?

5 **In other CO_2 news,** Greenland melts. As in 97 per cent of the ice sheet covering the island. The last time that happened was 1889. On May 29, the temperature at the southern weather station reached 24.8 C, a record. If the whole ice cap melts, sea levels will rise by seven metres. But not to worry, global warming's some kind of elaborate hoax. Easy to say, unless you live on the coast.

6 **In other H_2O news.** Lucky Larry, the 17-pound lobster, has been saved. After surviving anywhere between 70 and 100 years, Lucky Larry was unlucky enough to end up on the menu at a restaurant in Connecticut, drawing local gawkers who wanted to laugh and point before his Last Bath. But "good lobsterian" Don MacKenzie saved Larry and set him free, invoking the sanity claws.

7 **They call the judge "Mariah."** Mariah Carey replaces Jennifer Lopez as a judge on American Idol, which is only fitting, as she's the one responsible for the legions of competing copycat divas who pretend to play the microphone like a trumpet and lard their vocals with overblown, unnecessary runs and trills. Mother Carey's chickens come home to roost.

8 **Speaking of birds.** It's hard to believe, but Twitter went down Thursday right in the middle of all the above exciting stuff, probably because everyone was tweeting about Robert and Kristen's vampire games. For about an hour, no birds sang. And then, of course, the most popular topic was #WhenTwitterWasDown … after it went up.

9 **BieberWatch.** Justin, as part of his maturity project, has gotten a new tattoo following the release of his latest album, Believe. Why am I thinking about that great line from Finding Nemo? "I think I just inked myself." Well, what else could he do? Twitter was down.

Planet Earth as a canvas

NASA'S GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER/USGS

Earth photography

Photo of island and luminous plankton wins public vote

In this amazing island-and-sea photograph, you can almost see Van Gogh's famous painting The Starry Night. The image of greenish phytoplankton swirling around Gotland, a Swedish island in the Baltic Sea, was voted by the public as the top image from NASA's Earth as Art collection. The collection is based on more than 40 years' worth of images from the space agency's Earth-observation satellites.

Since 1972, NASA's Landsat earth-observing program has become a vital reference worldwide for understanding scientific issues related to land use and natural resources.

Beyond the scientific information they supply, some Landsat images are simply striking to look at, presenting spectacular views of mountains, valleys and islands as well as forests, grasslands and agricultural patterns.

ANTHONY JOHNSTON/METRO

Q & A

'Great combination of colours and patterns'

In your opinion, what made this particular photo a winning one?
This image of Gotland — acquired in July 2005 — was a particularly popular one thanks to its great combination of colours and patterns.

What is also noteworthy — and especially so for biologists — concerns the blooms of phytoplankton. These microscopic organisms contain a green chlorophyll pigment they use to generate nutrients with the help of sunlight. But in this area near Gotland, the clutters of phytoplankton are very unusual.

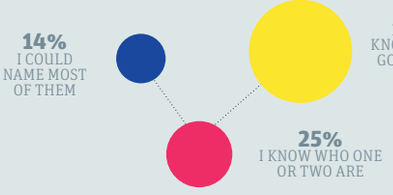
RONALD BECK
Public information specialist at Landsat

Vincent van Gogh's The Starry Night is one of the Dutch artist's most iconic and globally recognizable works. GOOGLE ART PROJECT

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

How much do you know about Canada's Olympians heading into the Games?



Twitter

@ShreyaPahwa:
Life of Pi movie? Guess I'll be able to say that I finally know what the story is. #yxe

@caitwilliamsu:
@SaraLua beautiful day, beautiful city, beautiful life! #saskatoon

@kfontaine89:
@VisitSaskatoon hittin up the bike trails along the river and taste of sask! #myYXEmoment #yxe

@maybescott:
Beta testing the new Mayfair Pool. Going to a pool before it officially opens should ensure there is no "p in the ool" #yxe

@Lucifyte:
Pretty sure my drunken display last night surpasses even the time I passed out in front of Divas in #yxe.

@jessdidica:
"the king of the world" was ahead of me at #starbucks this morning in #yxe. Apparently Mr. The King drinks caramel macchiatos.

metro
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The Watch shifts from police procedural to comedy to alien invasion. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Scripts that go clunk in the night

The Watch. Three of the funniest guys around can't even save this lacklustre comedy

Richard: Mark, The Watch mixes and matches an alien invasion story with a police procedural story and comedy in the same way that it throws together its three over the title stars, Stiller, Hill and Vaughn. That is to say, sloppily. It hopes to win audiences by giving them a little of everything, but feels like the cinematic equivalent of an unmade bed. Luckily newcomer (to us anyway) Richard Ayoade spices things up.

Mark: Richard, I didn't even like this movie when it was called Ghostbusters. And that movie had an iconic cast and was very much of its moment. But this flick feels so ripped off that even the colour of the slime is the same. Yes, Ayoade is good, and I hope to see him in a better movie soon. And Vince Vaughan can't help but be funny. But you're right about the sloppiness of the whole enterprise. Every scene and every character has a different tone, resulting in a tone-deaf comedy. I don't think I laughed once.

RC: I liked this more than you think. I laughed, but the giggles didn't come as the result of a well-crafted script or an intelligent diction. They come because this crew of veterans knows how to suck a laugh out of almost anything. Vaughn made me laugh here and there, but his fast-talking act wore thin for me a long time ago. Ditto Stiller and Hill and their trademarks. I was happy to have a breath of fresh air in the form of Ayoade.

MB: Yes, we're dealing with comedy pros here. The acting isn't the problem. The script — even the idea of the script — is. This wheezy contraption felt completely fake, especially at the end when the movie turns violent. I mean, come on, is anyone in the theatre supposed to be scared of the aliens? Or care about the "heroes?" This is Hollywood committee writing at its worst, Richard, and you know it!

RC: I agree, but if you go in like I did, with low to no expectations, you'll laugh occasionally. Not loudly, and not often, but you'll laugh. If it is alien comedy that you're after, however, you may be better off renting Paul, starring Nick Frost, Simon Pegg and a foul mouthed ET.

MB: Or Galaxy Quest or even Earth Girls are Easy.

Synopsis

When a security guard is found skinned alive at a Costco, the store's manager Evan (Ben Stiller) vows to find his employee's killer. To get the job done he starts a Neighborhood Watch with three misfit volunteers.

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Mark: ●○○○○

SCENE 2

On the web

Big names from Tom Hanks to Jerry Seinfeld enter digital fray

Drama/Music

Step Up Revolution

Director. Scott Speer

Stars. Ryan Guzman, Kathryn McCormick

This installment of the franchise is now transported to Miami and introduces an entirely new cast. A local dance crew stages spontaneous routines on the city's streets in the hopes of winning a viral video challenge. But when a developer threatens to tear down their neighbourhood, the tycoon's own daughter shows her new friends that their fancy footwork can be used to save their area from destruction. Once again, the dance sequences are spectacular. But can't we please get a movie that offers more than your average music video?

IAN GORMELY

Luke Skywalker joins the dark side in new crime flick

Sushi Girl. Sadistic thief role allowed Mark Hamill to play the bad guy – and he enjoyed every minute

Mark Hamill is a pop culture icon — and now a sadistic robber in his latest film. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Star Wars could have been a lot different if Mark Hamill had picked his role.

"I remember reading Star Wars and thinking, boy, I wish I could be playing Darth Vader — that's the part,' " Hamill said.

There was never any question of that, however, and he went on to become a pop culture icon as plucky Luke Skywalker, the intrepid space adventurer who helps derail the evil Vader's plans for galactic domination in three Star Wars films.

Hamill's latest role is a galaxy away from the earnest Skywalker. In Sushi Girl, a crime noir flick having its international premiere at Montreal's Fantasia Film Festival, he plays Crow, a sadistic robber who inflicts pain with all the nonchalance of a chat between Skywalker and his robot pal R2D2.

"Every actor wants to push the envelope and explore the extremes on both sides," Hamill said, calling Skywalker "an icon of virtue."

But playing villains has proven lucrative for him too, with one of the most notable being his over-the-top vocal interpretation of The Joker in the animated Batman TV series and video games.

"It was a great kick to be cast as The Joker because he's an icon 180 degrees away from Luke," Hamill said, agreeing it's often more enjoyable to play the villain than the hero.

"You're messing up the chance for good to succeed and that's a lot of fun."

In Sushi Girl, Hamill teams with a roster of horror and action movie stars including James Duval from Donnie Darko, serial heavy Andy Mackenzie (Shoot 'Em Up), Michael Biehn, who duked it out with Arnold Schwarzenegger in The Terminator, and Tony Todd, who chilled filmgoers in The Candyman and has appeared on various TV shows including 24.

Todd said the script for Sushi Girl reminded him of other prominent genre films such as Asphalt Jungle and The Killing, which Hamill calls his favourite Stanley Kubrick movie.

"I just wanted to get away from the career wearing prosthetics and hooks on my hands and have a role that was 100 per cent," said Todd, adding he saw the crime flick as a chance to "take things to another level."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JULY 27 TO THURS., AUGUST 2. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Broadway Theatre
715 Broadway Ave., 306-652-6556

40 Days at Base Camp (STC) Fri 7 S at 9 Sun 7
China Heavyweight (G) Fri 9 Sat 7 Sun 9
Fringe Festival (STC) Mon-Thu
Cineplex Odeon Centre
3510 8th St. East, 306-955-1938
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri 4:25 Sat-Sun 1:25 Mon-Tue 4:25 Wed 1:25-4:25 Thu 4:25
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri 7:25-10:20 Sat-Sun 4:25-7:25-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:25-10:20
Brave (G) Fri 4:45-7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 2:20-4:45-7:10-9:40 Mon-Tue 4:45-7:10-9:40 Wed 2:20-4:45-7:10-9:40 Thu 4:45-7:10-9:40
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) No Passes Fri 5-6:50-8:30-10:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-3:5-6:50-8:30-10:30 No Passes Mon-Tue 5-6:50-8:30-10:30 No Passes Wed 1:30-3:5-6:50-8:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 5-6:50-8:30-10:30
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri 6-8:15-10:25 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:45-6-8:15-10:25 Mon-Tue 6-8:15-10:25 Wed 1:20-3:45-6-8:15-10:25 Thu 6-8:15-10:25
Katy Perry: Part of Me (G) Fri-Thu 9:55
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri 5:15-7:40 Sat-Sun 3:05-5:15-7:40 Mon-Tue 5:15-7:40 Wed 3:05-5:15-7:40 Thu 5:15-7:40
Ted (14A) Fri 5:10-7:35-10:05 Sat-Sun 2:30-5:10-7:35-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:35-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

Galaxy Cinemas Saskatoon
347 2nd Ave. South, 306-664-5060

The African Queen (G) Sun 1
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:25-7:30-10:45
André Rieu's 25th Anniversary Home-

The Dark Knight Rises PROVIDED

town Concert (STC) Sat 12:45
Brave (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Mon 2:45-5:15-10:20 Tue 2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Wed 2:45-5:15-10:20 Thu 2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20
Curious George (G) Sat 11
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) No Passes Fri 2-2:30-3:10-5:50-6:20-6:50-9:30-10-10:30 No Passes Sat 11-2-2:30-3:10-5:50-6:20-6:50-9:30-10-10:30 No Passes Sun 2-2:30-3:10-5:50-6:20-6:50-9:30-10-10:30 No Passes Mon 1:45-2:15-2:55-5:35-6:05-6:35-9:15-9:45-10:15 No Passes Tue-Thu 1:40-2:15-2:55-5:40-6:10-6:35-9:15-9:45-10:15 No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:40-7:20-11 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:25-7:05-10:45
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Sun 12:25 Mon-Thu 12:30
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 2:55-5:10-7:40-10:05
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri 12:05 Sat 11:30-12:05 Sun 12:05 Mon-Thu 12:25
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Sun 2:15-5-7:45-10:25 Mon-Thu 2:10-5-7:45-10:25
Savages (18A) Fri 1-4-7-9:50 Sat-Sun 4-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 1-4-7-9:50
Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (G) Mon 7:30
Step Up Revolution (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:05-5:40-8:10-10:35
Ted (14A) Fri 12:10-2:50-5:25-8:05-10:40 Sat 12:10-2:50-8:05-10:40 Sun 12:10-2:50-5:25-8:05-10:40 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:20-8:05-10:40
The Watch (18A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-3:20-5:45-8:20-10:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 2:50-5:25-8-10:30
The Who - Quadrophenia: The Complete Story (STC) Wed 7:30

Roxy Theatre
320 20th St West, 306-955-8642

Moonrise Kingdom (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 2-8 Mon-Thu 8
Sound of My Voice (PG) Fri 9:30 Sat-Sun 3:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 9:30
To Rome With Love (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-7 Mon-Thu 7

Rainbow Cinemas Saskatoon
The Centre at Circle & 8th, 306-955-8642

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri-Thu 1-4:20-7-9:45
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:50
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:40
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:25-10
Prometheus (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:25-6:50-9:35
Rock of Ages (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-6:55-9:40
That's My Boy (14A) Fri-Thu 4:30-9:55
What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG) Fri-Thu 2-7:15

Travis Wall has All the Right Moves

Dancing days. Emmy-nominated choreographer brought his talent, and drama, to TCA press tour

AMBER RAY
Metro World News

The work of Travis Wall is everywhere. The young dancer is choreographing routines on the current season of Fox's So You Think You Can Dance; his moves are featured in the film Step Up Revolution, hitting theatres Friday; and on Tuesday, his mission to found the dance company Shaping Sound with his friends is documented on the new Oxygen reality series, All the Right Moves.

The 24-year-old SYTYCD veteran — he was the runner-up on the competition's second season — has, undeniably, become a bankable name in the dance world.

That notoriety doesn't always sit well with his pals — including Shaping Sound co-founders Nick Lazzarini, winner of the first season of SYTYCD, and Teddy Forance, who has performed with Lady Gaga and Janet Jackson — which makes Wall's story perfect for a docu-series. Artistry and drama collide in every episode.

Travis Wall. GETTY IMAGES

"When we were getting things kicked off, I definitely took the leadership role," Wall said of his group at the Television Critics Association press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Wednesday. "And through the season, we definitely see control struggles. Our egos are definitely tested."

From episode one there is concern over the shadow Wall's spotlight may cast on his partners, particularly after the suggestion is made to rename the company Travis Wall's Shaping Sound.

"That was not the intention of starting this dance company, to throw my name on it," Wall insisted.

Instead, Wall hopes Shaping Sound, whose co-founders were just nominated for an Emmy for their choreography on Dancing with the Stars, receives even more widespread recognition for their talent.

"Our goal in the entire series is to ... tour the United States with our dance company," Wall said.

"We can pay our dancers. We can travel the country together, have fun, party, dance, and just have the time of our lives."

Animal Kingdom has something to say about the human condition

The Looking Away. New album carries theme of detachment — where people are separate from each other and the world

KILLIAN YOUNG
Metro World News in New York

British ambient alt-rockers Animal Kingdom derive their band name from two opposite sources: science and religion.

Singer, guitarist and pianist Richard Sauberlich says he was reading books like The Naked Ape and The Human Zoo, both by Desmond Morris.

"He's an anthropologist who examines human behaviour through the prism of animal behaviour, really," says Sauberlich.

"And at the same time, I saw this picture in a children's Bible of Noah, in the ark, obviously. ... And the two just came together, joined together in my head."

He says the two ideas made him realize something about the human condition.

"I don't think we're necessarily, as humans, separate from or above the animals in terms of our basic drives and motivations," he says.

This inclusive philosophy stands in stark contrast to the material on Animal Kingdom's sophomore album, The Looking Away, where the main theme is one of detachment.

On the album, humans are removed from their animal roots, as well from the tragedies of the world.

"I think it's something that we all do," Sauberlich says of the tendency toward tuning out bad news.

"It takes an incredibly strong and brave character to stare at something that makes them uncomfortable 24/7, 365 (days) a year."

If there's one thing Animal Kingdom are not removed from, it's social media. While recording The Looking Away, the band asked fans to record themselves singing a lyric that would be compiled together for the ending of the track Straw Man. Although the fan-inspired version of the track didn't make the final cut, Sauberlich says that he was impressed by the response.

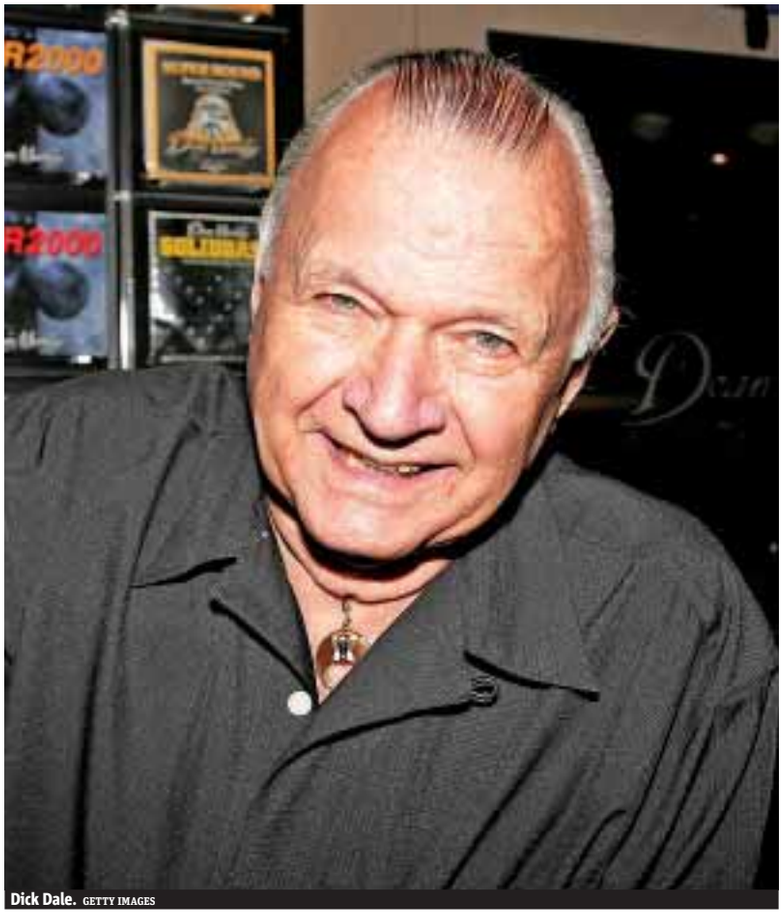
"It almost sounded like a lullaby with loads of people singing very subtly," Sauberlich says of the ending.

"There's a nice message to the lyric, (which is) reinforced by ... the fans believing in doing it."

Band vs. Food

Challenges. Animal Kingdom also are active on Twitter. Sauberlich says that he and his fellow band members are big fans of the Travel Network's Man vs. Food, and have conversed over Twitter with Adam Richman, the star and host of the show, on where the band can try ridiculous gastric challenges while they tour the United States for the first time this summer.

Animal Kingdom. SUPPLIED



Dick Dale. GETTY IMAGES

King of the surf guitar on the road, helping others with cancer

Dick Dale. Musician tries to leave his own pain behind as he tours to connect with other sufferers of the disease

NOLAN GAWRON
Metro Boston

Though it may be hard to believe, Dick Dale, king of the surf guitar, is actually from Massachusetts. Dale was born in South Boston and raised in Quincy.

"I have many, many fond memories there," notes Dale. "I remember playing Silent Night as an instrumental with my acoustic guitar in the winter at Quincy Point and walking home in the snow."

When his father got a job offer from Howard Hughes in 1954, the family moved to California and Dale began surfing — a hobby that would provide the primary influence for his signature sound.

"Gene Cooper's drums and the way he accentuated became my picking style. I went from that to copying the sound of getting caught up in a very big wave," says Dale.

"I was also raising lions and tigers and preserving the breeds of the jungle. When they would scream to me to be fed or to come play with them they would go 'Yaoooooo.' I would try to imitate that sound on my guitar. So it was a mixture of everything — Gene Cooper, lions and tigers, and the ocean."

Besides being known as founder of surf rock, Dale is also known reverently as the "father of heavy metal."

"In those days the sound was created by an output transformer and they were only 10 or 15 watts and only had 6-to-8 inch speakers," notes Dale. "I started buying these things and they would keep catching on fire because I was pushing the ampage."

After his friend Leo Fender noticed the demand for a bigger sound, he went to work on making Dale the first ever 100-watt amplifier.

"We plugged in the amplifier and it was like going from a VW Bug to a Testarossa racecar," says Dale. "That's when I made the world's ears bleed. Then we got all the people who copied me."

Now 75, Dale is coping with cancer and diabetes. While his health issues have kept him from surfing, they haven't stopped him from touring. Travelling with his son who plays drums, Dale's wife also joins him on his journey as his nurse.

"She's the one keeping me alive," says Dale.

"We're on the road to help people going through the same thing that I'm going through and to have a different attitude and forget about our pain by helping other people deal with theirs. So we laugh about it, we swear about it and we say, 'What can we do for you?'"

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Katherine Jackson. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Katherine's lawyer vows to get her reinstated as guardian

The Jackson family's recent dispute seems to be at least partially resolved, as Katherine Jackson has been reunited with her grandchildren.

"Grandma's here!" Paris Jackson, her 14-year-old granddaughter, posted to Twitter.

Katherine, who is legal guardian for Paris and her two brothers — children of the late Michael Jackson — was reported missing after she was spirited away to Arizona to rest without her grandchildren being notified. The kids' cousin, TJ Jackson, was granted temporary custody this week, but now that Katherine is back she intends to regain custody, according to Hollyscoop.

"This is creating some havoc that we need to nip in the bud," her lawyer, Perry Sanders, says.

"I intend to get her immediately reinstated as the guardian."

Lindsay Lohan

Lohan rear-ends Mustang

Lindsay Lohan has reportedly been involved in another car accident, according to TMZ.

During a shopping trip in West Hollywood, the troubled starlet reportedly rear-ended a silver Mustang that wasn't moving, causing "minor and cosmetic" damage to the Mustang and Lohan's Porsche.

"We were sitting at a light and somebody hit us," the driver of the other car tells the website, adding that a male companion of Lohan's left his number with them before they took off to avoid paparazzi.

The Word

Pattinson relationship heading to its Twilight

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

Not surprisingly, Robert Pattinson has packed up and left the Los Angeles home he shared with Kristen Stewart. This comes after Us Weekly published photos of his girlfriend and Twilight co-star in the midst of a not-so-discreet fling with director Rupert Sanders.

Although Stewart issued a weepy public appeal for forgiveness, it appears Pattinson isn't having any of it — maybe because, like Us Weekly, he noticed that the L.A. Dodgers hat she was wearing in the photos looks suspiciously similar to one he's frequently spotted in.

"I'm not sure they'll be able to recover from this," a source associated with Twilight tells People magazine, adding that Pattinson isn't in contact with Stewart and "is heartbroken and angry."

Tell us, source, how does Kristen feel?

"Kristen really loves Rob more than anything," they continue.

"He's all that matters to her right now."

There's plenty more to come from this: Stewart is reportedly preparing to personally apologize to Sanders' wife, and the final Twilight circus doesn't hit theatres until November.

In other words: If we have to feel like a sleazy Cheaters B-team crew, so do you, so try to sit back and enjoy the ride.

Jeremy Renner

Renner not prepared for what popped up

Jeremy Renner doesn't have the best luck with flights, he tells Jimmy Kimmel during an interview.

"A lot of times when I'm on the plane, I have to sleep. And I'm not a good sleeper on the plane," the Bourne Legacy star explains. "I had to fly from London to Los Angeles for dinner, and then get right back on a plane to London. ... Somebody gave me some pills, like Ambien. So I took a little sleeping pill, popped it and realized nothing's happening — but something else was happening!"

Renner soon realized he had accidentally taken a Viagra pill instead.

"Not only did I not sleep the entire flight, but there was ... 'camping' ... happening," he says. "The flight attendants were sort of in on the joke. They were like, 'Can we get you anything, Mr. Renner?'"

Christina Aguilera

Aguilera sparks rumour, insists she isn't pregnant

Christina Aguilera prompted pregnancy rumours after she was spotted leaving a doctor's office this week with boyfriend Matthew Rutler, but insiders insist to Hollyscoop that the singer and reality show judge is not expecting.

Instead, Aguilera was reportedly at the Sherman Oaks Medical Center for a routine checkup relating to an old back injury.

Twitter

@kirstiealley
Good Morning!!!! Kayaking today???! This should be good..Oh Lawd

@IMKristenBell
i want 2 live in a nation where we do more than pay attn 2 the issue of the moment, where we follow through.

@russellcrowe
40.40 km bike ride Reykjavik to Hafnarfjodur via coast to Laugar World Class, gym [10x60 kg bench,10x70 kg seated Jammer,1m prone hold] x 5

@AlbertBrooks
Just arrived in Beijing for the Olympics. These buildings do not look like they're ready for Friday.

Keeping things cool on hot summer nights

Machines for making shaved ice at home have become common. Hand-cranked models can sell for less than $10, with more powerful electric versions averaging $20 and up. But if you don't have or want a machine, it's also easy to make granita-style shaved ice.

ALISON LADMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cherry Cola Shaved Ice

- Four 12-oz cans cola soda (6 cans are needed if making granita)
- 12-oz bag frozen cherries, thawed
- Chopped maraschino cherries, to garnish

1. In saucepan over high heat, bring cola to a boil. Use caution and stir regularly until the foam subsides. Boil until mix reduced to 1 cup, about 20 minutes.

2. In blender, purée cherries until smooth. Stir the cherries into the reduced cola and cook for another 2 minutes. Strain mix through fine mesh strainer, discarding any solids. Allow mix to cool. Refrigerate until using.

3. To use with shaved ice, drizzle a bit of the syrup over a cone or bowl of ice, then garnish with chopped maraschino cherries.

4. Granita: Stir 2 more 12-oz cans of cola into the entire batch of cooled syrup. Pour into a 9-by-13-inch pan and freeze. Every 20 minutes, use a fork to scrape and stir the mixture until it is firm with small ice crystals. Spoon into dishes and garnish with chopped maraschino cherries.

Coconut Lime Shaved Ice

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/3 cup lime juice
- Zest of 2 limes
- Cream of coconut, to drizzle

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the sugar, water, lime juice and lime zest. Heat, stirring until the sugar dissolves, about 3 to 4 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow the mixture to cool completely. Refrigerate until ready to use.

2. To use with shaved ice, drizzle a bit of the syrup over a cone or bowl of ice, then drizzle cream of coconut over the top.

3. Granita: Stir another 1 1/2 cups of water and 1/2 cup lime juice into the entire batch of chilled syrup. Pour the mixture into a 9-by-13-inch pan and freeze. Every 20 minutes, use a fork to scrape and stir the mixture until it is firm with small ice crystals. Gently fold and swirl 1/2 cup cream of coconut into the mixture, then scoop into bowls or glasses to serve.

Mocha Shaved Ice

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- 3 tablespoons instant coffee granules
- 1 cup water
- Shaved chocolate, to garnish

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the sugar, cocoa powder, instant coffee and water. Whisk until the sugar and instant coffee dissolve. Remove from the heat and strain the mixture through a fine mesh strainer. Allow to cool completely. Refrigerate until ready to use.

2. To use with shaved ice, stir the syrup then drizzle a bit over a cone or bowl of ice, then garnish with shaved chocolate.

3. Granita: Stir another 2 1/2 cups of water into the entire batch of cooled syrup. Pour into a 9-by-13-inch pan and freeze. Every 20 minutes, use a fork to scrape and stir the mixture until it is firm with small ice crystals. Spoon into dishes and garnish with shaved chocolate.

Liquid Assets

London beer and Olympic watching

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
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Unless they make chug-a-lugging an Olympic sport, the only torch I'll ever carry is for that brunette I had the hots for in university.

I do love London and can't think of a better place to watch our athletes compete — on TV from the comfort of one of the city's multitude of old school pubs.

They take drinking beer very seriously in England, with a pint of almost every variety of ale tracing its roots back to somewhere in the United Kingdom.

While the taps advertising huge multinational producers dominate modern London's liquor landscape, you can still get a glass of local brew at the public houses owned by individual breweries.

Fuller's is the city's oldest, having pumped out suds in its Chiswick brewery since 1845. Its soft, smooth and creamy London Pride Ale (500 ml, $2.80 - $3.44) is, well, the pride of London.

I'm partial to its Organic Honey Dew Ale (500 ml, $3.35 - $3.95), an all-natural, lightly malty creation with a subtle bitterness and just a touch of bee juice.

Go Team Canada!

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

On the Web

Canadian scientists developing colourful purple wheat to boost health, economy

SPORTS 4

Edwin Encarnacion hits a three-run homer against the Oakland Athletics Thursday at Rogers Centre in Toronto. BRAD WHITE/GETTY IMAGES

Jays dodge sweep with two blasts and a bunt

MLB. Toronto bounces back from Wednesday's 16-0 drubbing by Athletics

Thursday's game

10	4
Blue Jays	Athletics

A pair of big blasts and a bunt helped the Toronto Blue Jays avoid a sweep at the hands of the surging Oakland Athletics.

Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer in the fourth and Kelly Johnson hit a solo shot in the seventh as the Blue Jays beat Oakland 10-4 Thursday, stopping the Athletics' winning streak at seven games.

But in between the homers there was a bunt in the sixth by Travis Snider on a safety squeeze with runners at second and third that scored two runs when Oakland left-hander Tommy Milone lost control on his throw to first.

The throw hit Snider and allowed a second run to score on the play to give the Blue Jays a 5-4 lead, and they never looked back.

"In that spot we're playing for a run just to tie things up," Blue Jays manager John Farrell said. "Fortunately they mishandled the ball and we end up scoring two runs."

Milone said he rushed the throw.

"When he first squared I thought maybe I would have a play at home but then I kind of saw the runner out of the corner of my eye and he looked like he was going to be safe anyway," Milone said.

The Blue Jays bounced back from a 16-0 drubbing by the A's on Wednesday.

"You can quickly turn the page on a tough day, that's the beauty of this game," Farrell said.

The Blue Jays scored four runs in the eighth on a double by Snider, a sacrifice fly by Yan Gomes, and a double by Johnson against Sean Doolittle and a double by Jeff Mathis against Evan Scribner.

"(Toronto) executed well and got some big hits down the stretch," A's manager Bob Melvin said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Just a good come-from-behind win today, particularly with the way things finished up last night."

Blue Jays manager John Farrell

Canadian Open

Piercy breaks course record

Scott Piercy sits atop the leaderboard after a soggy opening round at the RBC Canadian Open.

The American fired an 8-under 62 at Hamilton Golf and Country Club, which was left almost defenceless by rain that fell overnight and throughout the round. Piercy's 62 matched the competitive course record at Hamilton — Warren Sye shot that number in the third round of the 1991 Ontario Amateur — and included eagles on both of the par-5s.

"I hit it solid out there," Piercy said. "I think I only missed a couple greens, and ball-striking around here with the rough being so penal is a must to shoot well." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Owners' turn to listen at talks

A day after tabling the remaining elements of its opening contract offer, it was the NHL's turn to listen.

The NHL Players' Association made a number of presentations to owners Thursday, including ones addressing pensions, training camp and ice conditions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Hurricanes sign sniper Semin

The Carolina Hurricanes signed sniper Alexander Semin to a $7-million US, one-year deal Thursday.

Semin had 21 goals and 33 assists with the Washington Capitals last season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mobile sports

In an off-season marked by Junior Seau's suicide and scores of lawsuits over brain injuries, the NFL on Thursday launched a comprehensive wellness program for current and retired players. Some welcomed the program as long overdue while those leading the NFL concussion litigation said the latest program lends credence to lawsuits against the league. Scan the code for the story.

SOME NOT THRILLED WITH NEW STADIUM

Ticket prices set to rise in Saskatchewan; Fred Stamps under-achieving; and Blue Bombers missing retired defensive lineman

CFL EXTRA POINTS
Dan Toth
saskatoon@metronews.ca

Saskatchewan Roughriders: Not everyone is onside with Regina's decision to construct a new $278 million, 33,000-seat football stadium for the Riders. Despite a $100 million loan from the province, an $80 million grant, and the city's $73 million contribution toward the construction of the facility, Rider fans will still be tagged with a $12.50 service charge per game, ramping up the cost of already pricey Roughriders tickets.

B.C. Lions: Lions defensive lineman Khalif Mitchell has the right to appeal his two-game suspension as part of the CFLPA's bargaining agreement with the league. But shouldn't the Lions management (Wally Buono) have stepped in and made it clear he needs to take his medicine or face a team suspension of similar length for hyper-extending the arm of Eskimos offensive lineman Simeon Rottier last Friday?

Calgary Stampeders: The Stamps addition of eight-year CFL vet Tad Kornegay, who recorded 39 tackles and two interceptions in 15 games with the Lions last season, is a timely acquisition. With Stamps veteran cornerback Keon Raymond (hamstring), halfback Brandon Smith (leg) and linebacker Marvin White (hamstring), all on the mend, they will need the versatile defender.

Edmonton Eskimos: Esks receiver Fred Stamps is the CFL's early season under-achiever. Although still coming back from a serious groin injury suffered in 2011, and saddled with new starting QB Steven Jyles, Stamps had just 13 catches for 110 yards prior to Thursday night's game against Winnipeg.

Hamilton Tiger-Cats: Henry Burris has erased any notion that he's past his prime as a CFL QB with 360 yards passing and four touchdowns last week that earned him the CFL's offensive player of the week honours. The Tiger-Cats pivot completed 27 of 30 passes against Montreal, tying him with Jason Maas for the fifth-best single-game completion percentage (90%) in CFL history.

Winnipeg Blue Bombers: Doug Brown's retirement might have had a greater negative effect on the Bombers defence than first thought. Despite the veteran presence of Jonathan Hefney and Jovon Johnson, the Blue have been easy to play against in 2012. That's certainly a switch from last season when the Bombers D developed a well-deserved reputation as the league's cockiest group.

Canadians bringing swagger to the pool

Swimming.
Expectations running high for team after struggles in past Games

Canada's Julia Wilkinson practises in London on Thursday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's swimmers are demanding more of themselves at the Summer Olympics.

After no medals in 2004 and one bronze in 2008, Canada's team of 33 athletes is targeting three medals and swimmers in 13 to 15 finals in London.

"It's completely different," backstroker Julia Wilkinson said Thursday. "Four years ago, it was 'We hope we can make some finals.'

"Now it's 'Who is going to be the first one to win a medal?' We've kind of come in with this swagger and we believe we can do it."

As though to punctuate her point, the Stratford, Ont., swimmer had her nails painted red, white and gold this week.

Swimming starts Saturday and runs for eight days. The open-water races, which are ten-kilometre swims, will be contested in the second week.

Victoria's Ryan Cochrane prevented a second straight shutout in the pool in Beijing when he won bronze on the last day of competition. Wilkinson was about to race a relay and recalls she and her teammates were stunned to tears by Cochrane's medal.

There will be no shock and awe this time, according to the head of Swimming Canada.

"I don't have a crystal ball," said chief executive officer Pierre Lafontaine. "I can tell you the Canadian kids in our lanes are going to walk pretty tall and they're going to feel they belong in that pool. They're not going to get intimidated by much." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heat wave

Organizers are attempting to address complaints over excessive heat inside the Olympic Aquatics Centre.

- Temperatures around the pool have soared over 30 C during a heat wave.

Track-and-field

Bolt says he's been slowed by bad back

Usain Bolt finally confessed there has been something wrong. It was his back.

The Olympic champion said Thursday a bad back has been causing him hamstring problems, leading to a pair of losses to training partner Yohan Blake at the Jamaican trials.

"It was a slight problem. I got that fixed and I'm ready to go," Bolt said in his first formal media appearance of the London Games, where he was given the honour of carrying his country's flag at Friday's opening ceremony.

Bolt lost to Blake twice at the recent Jamaican trials in both the 100 and his favoured 200 metres. The setbacks fuelled speculation that he was injured but haven't dampened expectation that he will retain his 100 and 200 gold medals.

Bolt also dismissed talk that he had been training away from TV cameras and reporters at the Jamaican team camp in central England because he is injured.

"I'm always ready," he said. "It's all about the championship. It's never about the trials, everyone knows that. My coach doesn't like the cameras. He likes to keep me away from the cameras."

Bolt was scheduled to appear alongside Blake and other athletes at the event in the heart of east London, but travel problems held some of them up, the Jamaican Olympic Association said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Usain Bolt in London on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London calling: Let the Games begin

Canadian diver Jennifer Abel practises in London on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

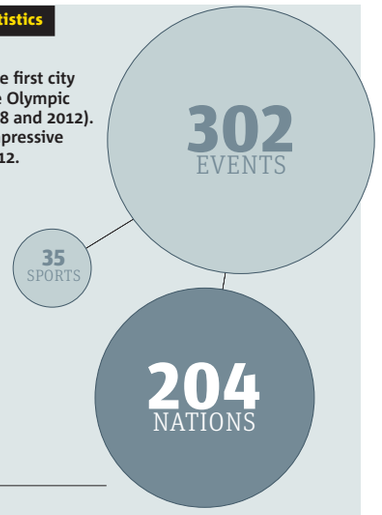
Canadian diver Meaghan Benfeito waves during a training session on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Milos Raonic practises at Wimbledon on Thursday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swimmers practise at the Aquatics Centre at Olympic Park in London on Thursday. MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olympics by statistics

London will be the first city ever to host three Olympic Games (1908, 1948 and 2012). Here are a few impressive numbers from 2012.



Athletes
10,490

Foreign visitors
5 million

Projected ticket sales
9 million

TV spectators
4 billion

Ticket prices

Athletics	$31-$1,150
Basketball	$31-$675
BMX cycling	$31-$198
Gymnastics (artistic)	$31-$715
Soccer	$31-$293
Judo	$31-$198
Table tennis	$31-$198
Weightlifting	$31-$277

Opening ceremony. Performance comes before partying for many Canadian athletes

Canadian swimming star Mark Tewksbury watched the opening ceremony of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics from the cafeteria of the athletes' village.

Tewksbury, who won gold at those Games in the 100-metre backstroke, was hoping to get a leg-up on the competition by saving his legs from what he knew would be a long and physically taxing night.

"I got to the cafeteria and my main competitors were all there watching on TV too," said Tewksbury, Canada's chef de mission at the London Games. "But it was OK. I won it by six one hundredths so who knows? That might have been the six hundredths I would have lost."

Many of Canada's athletes are skipping Friday's opening ceremony, some because they're competing the next day, others because they're housed in locations that are too far a trek from the stadium.

"Some people really get lifted by it and some people think the physical drain is too much," Tewksbury said. "It's a personal choice."

"The whole point of the Olympics is performance. That's the memory you want to take for the rest of your life and you've still got the closing (ceremony). The closing is there and it's really the athletes' ceremony. It's awful to walk in an opening and regret it because it impacted your performance."

The ceremony at Olympic Stadium, directed by Danny Boyle — the Oscar-winning director of Slumdog Millionaire — are scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. local time (2 p.m. ET, CTV) and end at midnight. Most of the athletes will be able to walk back to their housing, which is adjacent to Olympic Park, but it still puts them back at the village as late as 12:30 a.m.

Triathlon athlete Simon Whitfield of Victoria will lead Canada into the ceremony as the team's flag-bearer. They are expected to leave the village at 9 p.m. and enter Olympic Stadium at 10:15.

Canada's swim team won't march in the ceremony, meaning freestyler Brent Hayden will be three-for-three in giving the Olympic opening ceremony a pass.

"It's always kind of team policy that if you're competing within the first few days you tend to skip just because you're not going to get to bed at a reasonable hour," Hayden said. "Standing up for hours on end, tiring your legs out is not necessarily the best thing to do before a competition. We all wish we could be there. We are all very patriotic and we would just love to be able to walk into the stadium with our country, waving our flags, but we're here to compete."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It's one of those things. All my friends (ask) 'What is it like to walk in the opening ceremonies?' I don't know."

Freestyle swimmer Brent Hayden

Quick turnaround

Several thousand athletes from 204 countries will take part in the ceremony.

- The International Olympic Committee has pressed London organizers to make sure the show doesn't run late so that athletes can get to bed at a reasonable hour.
- There are medal events Saturday in archery, fencing, cycling, judo, shooting, swimming and weightlifting.
- Canada's rowing team will hold its own opening celebration — with the athletes all dressed in their ceremony outfits — at its hotel near the rowing venue. Rowing begins Saturday, with the first boats scheduled to push off the start line at 9:30 a.m.

Canadian flag-bearer Simon Whitfield THE CANADIAN PRESS

For opening weekend Olympic coverage, go to metronews.ca/olympics.

Tennis. Raonic looks to Great One for Olympic advice

Canada's Milos Raonic knew exactly who to talk to for a little guidance ahead of his first Olympic experience.

The rising tennis star said he met up with Wayne Gretzky last winter in Los Angeles and chatted about the London Games while out for dinner.

"He told me that the competition is a big thing for sure, but he said the most special thing was meeting other athletes and just learning from them and hearing different stories," Raonic said Thursday.

Gretzky played for Canada at the 1998 Games in Nagano and served as the executive director of the men's hockey team at the next two Winter Olympics.

Raonic said he was in L.A. for training when he got connected with Gretzky through a friend of a friend. He said The Great One told him to make sure he savours the Olympic experience.

"I think he's won pretty much every single thing," Raonic said. "And the fact that the Olympics means that much I think shows how grand the event is."

Considering the strong singles field in London, it would be a big surprise if Raonic reached the podium. However, he has recorded some impressive wins this year and shown that he belongs on court with the game's top players. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Round 1

Raonic had a breakthrough season on the ATP Tour in 2011.

- The hard-serving 21-year-old from Thornhill, Ont., has won two tournaments this season and is ranked No. 25 in the world.
- Raonic will meet world No. 69 Tatsuma Ito of Japan in the first round. The complete schedule has not been finalized but play is slated to begin Saturday.

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Forget about your people skills today and do what feels right to you personally. The more you make an effort to be nice to certain individuals, the more likely it is they will take it as a sign of weakness.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Whatever has caused you to subdue your feelings and become a bit emotionally distant in recent days, you are advised not to take it too seriously. The Earth turns and everything will look different, and better, tomorrow.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Adopt a no-nonsense nature today, especially when dealing with people whose negative attitudes can drive you to despair. The more they try to convince you that something terrible is happening, the more you should laugh at them.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
There is no point getting caught in a battle of wills with someone in a position of power. They will win and you will lose, it's that simple. Let them call the shots.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Cosmic activity in your own sign encourages you to believe that you can do anything. But you will accomplish more in the long-term if you focus on one particular talent.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You know it pays to be honest but because you are uncertain how some people might react if you tell them the truth, you are reluctant to open your mouth. That's a mistake. They need your input, so speak up.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It may annoy you that certain people don't take your ideas seriously but it's their loss. There are options open to you now — and you don't need anyone's help but your own.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Why are you so reluctant to take the advice of a friend? Most likely it's because you don't want to admit that you made the wrong choice. But what's the big deal? You're human like everyone else.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may need to force yourself to be enthusiastic about what you are expected to do, but it's an effort worth making. The better the job you do, the more likely it is you will be offered something more interesting later on.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your confidence may not be up to its usual levels at the moment but it's not the end of the world. If you encounter the kind of opposition that makes you feel uncomfortable, just back off a bit. You've got plenty of time.

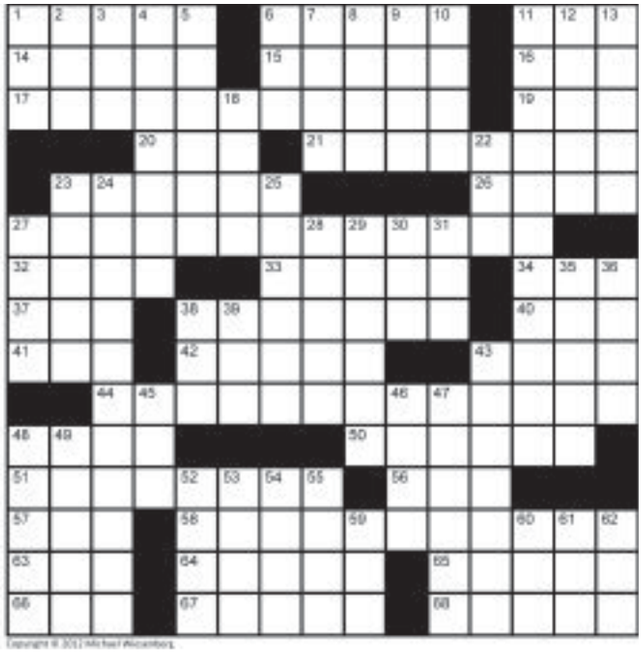
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Admit it: You have bitten off more than you can chew and now you are looking around for a way out. Well, that's too bad because there isn't one. Do the best you can and live with the consequences.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will let someone know that you don't want to argue but they are hell bent on having it out with you. In which case you might as well tell them what you really think.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Sports

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. Give a quick welcome
6. Ascend
11. Cable chan. for old films
14. Condescending type
15. Export from Côte d'Ivoire
16. A Gershwin
17. Regina CFL team
19. US Republicans
20. US amateur-sports gp.
21. *Le Rouge et le Noir* author
23. Bola hurler
26. Sermon's end?
27. Alberta hockey team
32. Man or Capri
33. Agitate a liquid
34. Monitor, for short
37. Able, jocularly
38. Where to find Kingston
40. Fish eggs
41. Ring around the Islands
42. "You ___ one"
43. Word on a greasy spoon's marquee
44. Former MLB team from Québec
48. ___ Jet
50. More flexible
51. Airy
56. Memo letters
57. Hawaiian tuna
58. Winnipeg team
63. Bewilderment
64. "This ___ a laughing matter"
65. ___ Boingo: Danny Elfman's former group
66. "Pipe down!"
67. "Ready, ___!"
68. Modern treaty violation

Down
1. Map abbr. before 1991
2. Part of a University of Ottawa cheerleader's request
3. Not me
4. The most popular scale of model railway in the world
5. *Odyssey* setting
6. MV/V
7. Early Beatles, affectionately
8. Rapper who acts on *Law & Order: S.V.U.*
9. Arabian mother
10. Cap'n's mate
11. Fix
12. Native of Zagreb
13. With 48-Down, Toronto team
18. German industrial center
22. Darin's love
23. Canada's ___ Bay
24. Mercury record
25. Blue ___ Cult
27. French sky
28. Scathing online criticism
29. "Because I'm worth it" brand
30. Faulkner's ___ *Lay Dying"*
31. Electrical unit that forms another unit upon reversal
35. Wind turbine part
36. Dick Tracy's Truehart
38. Ball or bass following
39. Alta. neighbor
43. Art show
45. It comes out of the ground
46. Accounting acronym
47. Earlier form of a word
48. See 13-Down
49. Set of cultural values
52. Pitcher stats
53. On the other hand
54. Dorothy's Em
55. Carroll of old *TV's Topper*
59. "Takin' Care of Business" band
60. Québec-to-Montréal dir.
61. Abbreviated linemen
62. Drunkard

Yesterday's crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

8			4		7			
6	4						3	7
	7			1		2		
	1		3	5				8
		9				4		
5				7	4		2	
		8		2			1	
3	6						9	2
			6		9			3

Yesterday's Sudoku

Sharability

easy hard

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2007 HONDA CIVIC	$17,995	$11,198	$7,797	$12,888	$49	Low reserve
2012 HYUNDAI ELANTRA TOURING GL	$22,995	$15,198	$7,797	$16,888	$49	Low reserve
2012 HYUNDAI ELANTRA TOURING GL	$22,995	$15,198	$7,797	$16,888	$49	Low reserve
2012 HYUNDAI ELANTRA TOURING GL	$22,995	$15,198	$7,797	$16,888	$49	Low reserve
2011 KIA SOUL 4U	$21,995	$15,754	$6,241	$17,444	$51	Low reserve
2011 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS	$22,995	$16,198	$6,797	$17,888	$53	Low reserve
2007 TOYOTA CAMRY	$20,995	$16,198	$5,797	$17,888	$72	Low reserve
2011 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS	$23,995	$18,198	$5,797	$19,888	$59	Low reserve
2011 CHEVROLET EQUINOX	$23,995	$18,198	$6,797	$19,888	$59	Low reserve
2008 HYUNDAI SANTA FE LIMITED	$24,995	$19,198	$6,797	$20,888	$84	Low reserve
2010 VW PASSAT	$24,995	$19,198	$6,797	$20,888	$72	Low reserve
2010 SUV JEEP WRANGLER	$24,995	$20,198	$5,797	$21,888	$77	Low reserve
2008 HYUNDAI SANTA FE	$25,995	$21,198	$5,797	$22,888	$93	Low reserve
SOLD! FORD ESCAPE LIMITED	$33,995	$22,198	$11,797	$23,888	$73	Low reserve
2012 CHRYSLER 200 LTD	$30,995	$23,198	$8,797	$24,888	$75	Low reserve
2010 FORD EDGE SEL	$31,995	$24,198	$7,797	$25,888	$91	Low reserve
2010 FORD EXPEDITION XLT	$34,995	$24,198	$10,797	$25,888	$91	Low reserve
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